

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

I believe that the copyright flag will interfere with the people's ability to make personal copies, regardless of whether or not the proponants say it won't. It will make it a severe inconvenience, to the point of boosting sales of the proponants' products. And trample the "fair use" clause of the consumer.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes, for the same reason of being a problem to setup. For example, some senior citizen's have problems even understanding how to set their VCR's to even record a soap opera.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes, if it doesn't interfere in some way what is the point in having a standard?

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

It will hamper future technologies by imposing restrictions on what can be developed.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

It will raise the cost by 10% at least. It will cause technologies like the VCR and cassette players to become unusable, because they don't comply.

Other Comments:

The entertainment industry wants us to believe that they are suffering from copyright infringement losses, they may be, but not in the figures that they release to the public. Take the movie spiderman, it broke the box office records, everyday some recording artist has a album go platinum. The figures that are given to the public about losses due to widespread copyright infringement, fail on one point, There was never any guarantee that the people would have ever purchased the product in question. Passage of any other law will in the long run cause the legitimate companies to go under. I do not feel it is the place of the government to step in with a standard that will destroy the fair use rights that the ordinary people have, just to help large corporations make more money by deceiving with projected losses. Why punish the law-abiding people for their legitimate uses of digital content because of a few that use it for copyright infringement. Is this not the same argument used against the VCR?